United States Patent [19]

Danner

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[54] **COMPUTER-TELEPHONE INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] **H04M 11/00;** H04M 1/56

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[58] **Field of Search** 379/96, 97, 98, 354

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for a computer-telephone interface system by which a general purpose personal computer is enabled to perform telephone functions such as dialing, answering ringing lines, and placing lines on hold without the need for a separate telephone instrument. The interface system is responsive to digital signals received from a microprocessor in the computer to implement the signalling functions utilized in a standard switched telephone network. The interface system performs dialing sequences entered either from the keyboard of the computer, a location in the computer memory, a location on a display screen associated with the computer or a location specified by a cursor used in association with the keyboard. Operation of the interface system does not interfere with the concurrent operation by the computer of an applications program.

21 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets